

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Action/Consent Item:

Appointment to the State Textbook Commission

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 156.405 (2)

Action Question:

Should the Kentucky Board of Education approve the recommendation for an appointment to the State Textbook Commission?

History/Background:

Existing Policy. In accordance with KRS 156.405(2), the Kentucky Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the chief state school officer, approves the appointments of members to the State Textbook Commission for terms of four years. Two appointments are made each year with the exception of four appointments made every fourth year.

The State Textbook Commission oversees the state adoption process for textbooks and instructional materials. It consists of ten members who represent the various areas of the Commonwealth--two (2) parents, two (2) administrators, five (5) teachers, and one (1) higher education representative. Their responsibilities include approving substitutions, establishing the state multiple list, approving membership for a statewide review team, and developing an evaluation instrument for each adoption group with the assistance of the review team.

Individuals currently serving on the Commission are as follows:

Rhonda Boyd, teacher, Georgetown Middle School, Georgetown (Scott Co.)
L. J. Harville, teacher, Belfry Middle and High School (Pike Co.)
Denishia Martin, teacher, Warren East High School, Bowling Green (Warren Co.)
Jennifer Mattingly, principal, Rockcastle County High School (Rockcastle Co.)
Natalie Stiglitz, higher education faculty, University of Louisville, Louisville (Jefferson Co.)
Mary Mills, parent, Munfordville (Hart Co.)
Dennis Pearce, parent, Lexington (Fayette Co.)
Cliff Owen, administrator, McCracken County Schools, Paducah (McCracken Co.)
Karen Roberts, teacher, Longfellow Primary School, Mayfield (Graves Co.)
Katrina Slone, teacher, Hindman Elementary, Hindman (Knott Co.)

According to KRS 156.405(2), the State Textbook Commission is required to have ten members. As of March 2, 2007, the terms of Katrina Slone and Cliff Owen ended, creating two vacancies on the Commission. Ms. Slone had served one term and was

reappointed in April 2007 by the Kentucky Board of Education to serve a second term. Mr. Owen will be retiring from his position as a district administrator and thus be ineligible to be reappointed for a second term. Approval is now sought for filling the position previously held by Mr. Owen.

If this appointment is approved, the composition of the State Textbook Commission will represent all areas of the state, will consist of two (2) males and eight (8) females, will be composed of one (1) African-American and nine (9) Caucasians, and meet the requirements set forth in statute.

Options are:

1. Approve the appointment.
2. Delay action and request new applicant.
3. Deny the appointment.

Staff Recommendation and Rationale:

Staff recommends that the board approve the appointment of the following person to the State Textbook Commission. The applicant is fully qualified to be a member of the Commission.

John W. Hardy is an associate principal at Campbell County High School in the Campbell County District. Mr. Hardy has served as an administrator for two years and previously as a classroom teacher in Technology Education in grades 7-12 for fourteen years. As a teacher he was actively involved in the evaluation of instructional resources for his classroom. He believes that this experience will serve the Commission as it considers technology components of both print and electronic basals. On his application for the Textbook Commission he stated his belief that textbooks selected for the state multiple lists should “meet the core content of Kentucky and lead to better planning of lessons.” He views textbooks as one of many “tools that must be used to ensure the students are achieving at a high level.”

Impact on Getting to Proficiency:

This process ensures that teachers and students have access to the most current instructional resources in a variety of formats and learning levels.

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Interim Commissioner of Education

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